

# TGM witness

October 2005

(Vol 2, Issue 6)

Semi-Annual Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

## TGI Fall Conference

Make plans to join us on October 25, 2005 for the TGI Fall Conference "Riding the Waves of Change." This years agenda includes guest speaker David Waits with the Waits Group, Stephanie Richardson from the Department of Finance and Administration, Commissioner Dave Goetz and closing with Governor Phil Bredesen.

Registration is \$40.00 (which includes continental breakfast & lunch). The registration fee will be billed to your agency with registration on-line from the Department of Personnel's Website.

If you are not employed with the state and wish to attend, you may mail a check, made payable to the Department of Personnel, 505 Deaderick Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, James K. Polk Building, Nashville, TN 37243 Attention: Sharon Buwalda.

Attire for the conference is business casual. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the day and you must be present to win.



### 2005 Steering Committee

#### Chairperson

Chuck Holland  
Class of 2002

#### Vice-Chairperson

Mike Travis  
Class of 2002

#### Past Chairperson

Donna Duarte  
Class of 2001

#### Class of 2004

Saya Qualls  
Susan Gullette

#### Class of 2003

Julie Perrey  
Marty Toth

#### At-Large

Melvin Jones  
Class of 2002

#### Ex-Officio

Cindy Saladin  
Class of 2000

#### Newsletter Editor

Mike Travis

#### Graphic Designer

Sharon Buwalda



## ***1<sup>st</sup> Annual TGI Endowment Golf Tournament***

By all accounts the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual TGI Endowment Fund Golf Tournament was a success. The tournament raised more than \$325 dollars for the TGI Endowment Fund, with an additional \$305 dollars generously donated for the Endowment Fund by the TGMJ Class of 2002.

The goal for the inaugural tournament was to put together an enjoyable event that could potentially raise money for the endowment. The committee was uncertain whether or not they could generate any positive revenue for the endowment in the first year, but was determined to begin this process in hopes that future events could generate a steady source of revenue for the endowment. The simple fact that money was contributed to the endowment made this year's tournament a success.

The other good news for the inaugural tournament was that the weather was exceedingly beautiful and all participants seemed to readily enjoy themselves despite having to chase those little white balls around Henry Horton Golf Course. Play began at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and the players stepped to the first tee with a gleam of hope in their eyes and a smile on their faces. Little did we know that one team had brought in a few "ringers."

The team of Joni Kies, Melinda Parton, Clint Parsons and Ralph Duke robbed ... um ... I meant to say out-played ... everyone with a blistering score of 63 (9 under par). The ringers were unmasked and several participants demanded a recount, but to no avail as the scorecards were received and counted by a reputable independent authority, TGEI Steering Committee Chairman, Joe Swinford. Congratulations to the Inaugural Tournament Champions for their fine display of skill and sportsmanship. Each of them received a \$40 gift certificate to the pro shop there at Henry Horton. Amazingly, there was hardly any bragging at all ... hardly any. Hopefully they will return next year to defend their title.

The 'closest to the pin' prize was awarded to Michael Thomason, who played an excellent shot to the par three 2nd hole. For his terrific shot, Mr. Thomason received a golf umbrella, TGEI and TGMJ coffee mugs from TRICOR.

Thanks to all the participants, volunteers, and especially Brian Derrick (TGEI 2003) Tournament Committee Chair for making this year the success it was. Many are already making plans to be there next year, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TGI Endowment Fund Golf Tournament is shaping up to be more fun than the 1st.



# ***TGI Endowment Fund Committee***

As you know, the Department of Personnel in conjunction with the University of Tennessee has formed an endowment committee to work toward the goal of funding for future TGEI and TGMI classes. At last year's fall conference Commissioner Randy Camp shared information about the endowment and its members. Below is a list of the members of this prestige group who are willing to take time to assure the continuation and of TGI Program.

Jim Ayers  
Chairman of the Board  
FirstBank

Gary Sasser  
President & CEO  
Averitt Express

Ned R. McWherter  
Former Governor

Ben Atchley  
Senator  
State of Tennessee

Cathy Holland  
Director, Community Affairs and Customer Service  
Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority

Dennis Henderson  
President & CEO  
TLM Associates, Inc.

Eleanor Yoakum  
Chairperson of the Board  
First Century Bank

Tom Ballard  
Director, Regional Economic Development  
UT-Battelle

Crawford Gallimore  
Chief Manager and Financial Officer  
The Hamilton-Ryker Group

Dorothy Shell-Berry  
Director, Human Resource Department  
Nashville Metropolitan Government

Odell Horton, Jr.  
Vice Chancellor  
UT Memphis

Tom Garland  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Tusculum College

Darrell Akins  
President & CEO  
Akins Crisp Public Strategies

Larry Brown  
Senior Vice President, Chief HR Worldwide  
Federal Express

LeTonia Armstrong  
Regional Director, State Government Affairs  
Abbott Laboratories, Inc.

Diane Heyman  
Vice President, Human Resources  
Hilton Hotels Corporation



***Class of 2004 Present Commissioner Camp a check for the TGI Endowment***

# *Class of 2005*

## **Reflections of Week 1**

It was a warm Sunday afternoon when we all converged on the Hilton Hotel in downtown Knoxville, TN on June 12, 2005. Until then the only time most of us had met was at the brief orientation a month earlier. We had been corresponding a lot about getting the hospitality room stocked (the really important stuff) the previous few weeks, so we had become a little familiar with the names of fellow classmates.

But this was the real deal. Time to see if all the hype from previous TGMI participants was real. We had our first of many excellent meals at the UT Conference Center. Then it was time to form a circle and do the “name game”. I’m sure everyone remembers trying to memorize the names of each person in the class by using the made-up prefix each of us gave ourselves. Who can forget No-baloney Tony, Perfect Patrice, or especially Sweet Steve? Unfortunately, I was the last person in the circle and had to try and remember all of them.



That night the hospitality room was abuzz with conversations as we tried to start the process of discovering exactly who all these people in the Class of 2005 are and what they do.

Monday’s class began with Dr. Bill Halbert talking about Intuitive Leadership. He was such a dynamic speaker. He really involved the member of the class in his presentation, we even had a wedding. That evening’s tour of the Thompson Boling Arena with dinner at the Boathouse was extremely interesting. And Joan Cronan, UT Women’s Athletic Director, had some unique insights into women’s athletics.

I guess Tuesday was one of those days we had all been waiting on. We were to receive our 360 degree Feedback based upon the Strength Deployment Inventory from Dr. Mike McIntyre. I believe we were all surprised that our class had only one red.

To say that all our presenters were passionate about their work would be an understatement, but Dr. Mike Fitzgerald stood out in my mind. His presentation on Thursday was very emotional. I missed the Thursday afternoon negotiation session with Mike McIntyre, but I understand it was very interesting.

I thought the Friday session with Mary Pankiewicz on becoming clutter free was very informative. I have used some of her suggestions and plan on doing more.

Each day Casey had us change tables so that there was always someone different at our table. That gave us a chance to spend a little more time with each person in the class. We started to see unique characteristics emerge in different people. Who knew that Victor was such a carnivore (meat!), Pam had such a motherly disposition (not!), or Don could get a free meal almost anywhere? The unique qualities of everyone in the class began to show, but also the ability and desire to work as a team was also evident.

*–By Rusty Lacy*



# **TGMI 2005**

## **Reflections on Week 2,**

### **Pickwick Landing State Park**

On a muggy Sunday afternoon in July, the TGMI Class of 2005 (THE BEST EVER!!!) made their way by various routes to Pickwick Landing State Park for another week of learning, sharing, eating (meat!), and bonding. I was once again apprehensive about seeing everyone, reacquainting with them, but most of all, nervous about that “teambuilding” day and what the rest of the week might hold.

We kicked off the week with a Sunday evening picnic. Hurricane Pam (oops, I mean Dennis) was making it's way to the Gulf Coast and it looked as if the outdoor teambuilding day might be in jeopardy. We were divided into three teams for Monday and immediately the aroma of competition filled the air. Each team knew there was one ULTIMATE goal—WIN!!!!

Monday morning we awoke to heavy rain as a result of Dennis' landfall so our teambuilding exercises were prepared as indoor activities. Some of us weren't too saddened by that turn of events. Our valiant leaders, Bob, Phil, and Gabe, were ready to challenge us beyond our expectations. Of course, many of us tried to scope out the activities and get a head start but to no avail. The Tennessee River Rats (with their freshly painted team shirts), the Red Savannahs (YEAH!!) and the Mean Green Machine were ready to face off.

That day, to me, ended up being one of the best experiences of TGMI. It was amazing to watch the talents of your team members come to the forefront, as their expertise was needed. Each of us had different talents and skills to bring to each activity. It was truly an example of leadership and teamwork at its best; except for the dam, which we blew up nine times. At the close of the day, the scores were tallied and the Tennessee River Rats won the challenge but also showed the ultimate form of teamwork in the last challenge as they split up to help the other two teams finish the task. Most importantly, Pam and I learned that we should *celebrate our successes* and *recognize that our efforts are more important than success* (HA!)

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday were filled with interesting sessions on various topics. We learned the value of customers (even in government), the importance of manners (and what to do with the napkin!), and we discussed the *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. Government Operations Day was quite an event as we were reminded of the dedication of the leaders of our state to move Tennessee forward in technology, in doing business with others, but most of all, in personnel and compensation issues. Though no clean-cut answers were available, we all left that day knowing that Tennessee is in pretty good hands.

On Thursday afternoon, we all split into our teams for final preparation of the Reflective Presentations. Many spent several hours, late into the evening, to finish their project. Friday morning we all prepared nervously in hopes that no other team had the same idea as us. We experienced a CSI investigation of ineffective leaders, we played a trivia game show, we took a helicopter ride, we saw our actions of our two-week experience revisited (with lots of meat!), we witnessed a tribal counsel meeting with the Survivors of TGMI 2005, and we attended our 20 year TGMI class reunion. We ended that session the TGMI Class of 2005 theme song!! Each presentation was a true expression of the variety of talent, intelligence, and overall dedication of the TGMI Class of 2005.

Personally, those two weeks at TGMI redefined me as a state employee and as a manager. I've recommitted myself to serving the citizens of this great State to the best of my ability. My faith in Tennessee government and it's employees has been renewed by watching 29 of the BEST in action and realizing how dedicated each of them are to their particular cause.

TGMI Class of 2005. TRULY, the BEST EVER!!!

*—By Connie Gibson*



Rusty has worked with the State for more than 7 years, his current title is the Manager of Information Systems, in the Office of Management Services, for the Comptroller of the Treasury Department. Rusty job responsibilities include providing support to County Property Assessors for connectivity and technical advice on equipment purchases. Establish policies, procedures, and standards to protect the network resources and Comptroller data stored on it. Ensure that servers, workstations, and other equipment meet State standards and are replaced as appropriate to provide Comptroller employees with the best possible service help make government work better.

Rusty was born in Fort Payne, Alabama growing up in a little town called Henagar in Northeast Alabama. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Alabama. Rusty is presently a member of the Tennessee Central Railway Museum and N-gauge modelers.

**MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE:** “The night I became ill and passed out. The concern shown about my health by so many others in the class made a big impression on me.”

**WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS:** “Understanding that with time it will be more difficult for people to connect as a class. I hope the members of the Best Class of TGMI, the Class of 2005, will continue to keep in touch so we can help each other solve problems for State government.”

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING:** “Building furniture in a well equipped work shop.”

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Lisa has worked for the State for last 18 years, her current title is an Environmental Program Manager II, for the division of Underground Storage Tanks, with the Department of Environment & Conservation. Lisa’s responsibilities include managing and overseeing operations in eight field offices and liaison between field and central office staff. She is active in policy and guidance development, and she plans and coordinates statewide training and conferences.



Lisa was born in Chicago, Illinois, presently resides in Readyville with her husband, four children, a dog, and cat. Lisa has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Murray State University. Lisa will cook for anyone, loves to talk to children and the elderly to hear their unique perspectives on life.

**MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE:** “I really enjoyed the teambuilding exercises because it taught me that I should not always be leading! A great leader knows when to step aside and encourage others to succeed.”

**WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS:** “To improve your management skills to enhance the work environments for those around you. Take back everything you learn and use it as often as possible.”

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING:** “Serving as a missionary.”





Connie or “Kooky Connie” has worked with the State for 16 years, her present title is Manager of Financial Services, for the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, for the Treasury Department. Connie’s job responsibilities include overseeing operations of TCRS retirement payroll, auditing of retirement benefits, and prior service billings, retirement insurance, financial reporting, and other related services.

Connie was born in Morristown, Tennessee, she is married and has two sons, she has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Carson-Newman College and is a CPA. Connie has planned several weddings for family and friends, and has thought about doing this as a second career.

**MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE:** “The Blackhawk helicopter ride was very special to me because I overcame a fear of heights. It was an incredible experience.”

**WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS:** “I hope that future TGMI members will have as wonderful an experience as I have. It truly is an opportunity for change.”

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING:** “Honestly, I would love to work part-time so that I would be more available for my sons.



Jeanette has worked with the State for 10 years, her present title is GIS Manager of the Planning & Federal Aid Division for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Jeanette manages the GIS lab at TWRA. Responsibilities include developing, maintaining, mapping, and reporting geospatial information on fish, wildlife, wildlife users, wildlife habitat, and cultural and natural resources.

Jeanette was born in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia and grew up in Paducah Kentucky. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master of Science Degree in Geography both from Murray State University. Jeanette has an Australian Shepherd and 3 Siamese cats.

**MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE:** “The entire two weeks was a memorable experience. The Blackhawk helicopter ride was unforgettable and gaining 29 new friends is something I treasure deeply.”

**WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS:** “Believe it when they tell you that TGMI is awesome. Enjoy the experience and get as much out of it as you can, both personally and professionally.”

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING:** “Vacationing in the mountains.”



# Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Project Summary

*By Jon Zirkle, Class of 2003*

Some members of the TGMI class of 2003 had talked about doing a volunteer project with Habitat for Humanity and how great that would be. In late January of 2005, Marty Toth, Brenda Apple, and I decided to make a go of it.

I contacted the Nashville Habitat of Humanity the following month and worked with Emily Story to schedule a date and type of project to set up for the group. They have volunteer options at the Habitat Store on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave where small groups of three or four can come in on a Saturday and provide customer service, stocking or other tasks needed on that particular day and individuals can contact them and be placed with a build crew or another sponsoring organization on a build day. They also have the type of project that we participated in, where a portion of the building of the house is assigned to a group for a particular day requiring at least 15 people to complete. Habitat has contractors on site supervising the build and providing tools and they work rain or shine. We chose the Saturday, May 14, 2005 as our group's assigned day for constructing the floors of a house.



We had to have the minimum number of people volunteer by April 15 so that they could have time to fill the spot if we backed out. I asked for volunteers first from the TGMI alumni list, and then expanded to the TGEI list, and finally recruited folks at TDOT.

The 14 volunteers that participated included personnel from five departments of state government and consisted of six TGMI alumni and one TGEI alumni. Eight were from TDOT and a couple of non-government friends participated as well.

The project was a success. We had the floors constructed by lunch. Great teamwork! And we didn't even get rained on despite the storms all around Nashville that day! Emily told me earlier that it rarely rains at the project site and that certainly proved to be true that day.

Several folks stayed after lunch and got some painting done on the front porch rails of two already completed houses and Kenny (TDOT) pitched in with Chip our site contractor to repair a light in an already completed house.



Thanks to all those that participated in our Habitat for Humanity project. Emily and the contractors on site were great to work with and provide a great service for the community.

I hope all had a rewarding experience and look forward to doing it next year.

If you would like to set up a time for a small group to volunteer on a build or at the Habitat store, contact Ms Emily Story at 254-4663 ext 224.



# *Stepping to the Plate*

One of America's favorite pastimes is baseball. It is a unique game where the efforts of individual players come together to affect the end results of the game being played as a team. The main objective of this game is to score more runs than your opponent. This objective is completed by each individual player "stepping up to the plate." The work, effort, and individual achievement of each person is to overcome the obstacles placed before them to reach the goal of the team.

TGMI had its first Class in 2000, and six classes in total have completed the TGMI management-training program. Since the first Class there have been six individuals who have served as the TGMI Chair. Five of those have come from the TGMI Class of 2000. For those of you who might not know who has served as Chair, let me share their names with you.

Harlan Goan – TGMI Class of 2000  
Steve Hawkins – TGMI Class of 2000  
Marlene Alvarez – TGMI Class of 2000  
Kathy Hartman – TGMI Class of 2000  
Donna Duarte – TGMI Class of 2001  
Chuck Holland – TGMI Class of 2000

Each of these individuals have "step to the plate," to serve to the greater good of the organization, and in particularly the Class of 2000 has really stepped up and shown what leaders are made of.

The TGMI Alumni Association is looking for individuals who are willing to make a commitment. Nominations are coming up shortly for the position of Vice-Chairperson and for two Members-at-Large. The question is are you ready to "Step to the Plate?"

The Member-at-Large positions serve a one-year term beginning in January 2006. The qualification's for Member-at-Large is a willingness to serve and the promotion of TGMI. At a minimum, the Member-at-Large candidate should be able to attend monthly Steering Committee meetings and TGMI networking functions.

The Vice-Chairperson position serves a three-year term beginning in January 2006. The Vice-Chairperson must be able to serve as Vice-Chair in 2006, as Chair in 2007, and as Past Chair in 2008. The qualification's for Vice-Chair is a willingness to serve, the promotion of TGMI, attendance to various sub-committee meetings, and to Chair the Communication Committee. The Vice-Chair will also represent TGMI in the absence of the Chairperson, attend monthly Steering Committee meetings, and various TGMI networking functions.

As each of you know, we are a varied and qualified membership. Consider offering yourself to give back to the organization that has so wonderfully given to you.

Consider "Stepping to the Plate" ...

# *Notes from the Class*

## *Class of 2000*

—Congratulations “Nana” Cindy Saladin, whose daughter-in-law, Sabrina and son, Andy gave birth to their son, Ian Andrew on August 8. Ian is “Nana” Cindy’s first grandbaby. Cindy says that Ian is the most beautiful baby, so soft and cuddly, and has many pictures she’d just love to show.

—Pam Parker has transferred from the Department of Personnel to the Department of Finance and Administration. She is in the new division called Enterprise Resource Planning.

—Mark Tummons, Director of Recreation Education Services at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, has been selected to attend the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. Mark has already attended the first week of training and will begin the second week in September.

—Harlan Goan left the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association to work in private industry.

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## *Class of 2002*

—The class of 2002 enjoyed their regular monthly luncheon meetings the second Thursdays in July and August. The meetings are standing meetings, which are attended by all members available to come. The members discuss work, state government, and the latest happenings in our families. It is a good time for all in attendance.

—Matt Roberts, son of Debbie Reeves, TGMI Class of 2002, has just returned from Rennes, France where he completed the last semester of his MBA at Rennes International School of Business. Matt received both his undergraduate degree in Accounting and his MBA from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, his mother’s alma mater. Matt is presently conducting second round interviews with three different companies for accounting positions.

—Congratulations to Melanie Moran who recently (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) got married to Chris Moran who is employed with the Department of Environment and Conservation. We wish both of them a long and happy life together.

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## *Class of 2003*

—Congratulations are in order for Patrick and Elizabeth Merkel who recently announced the adoption of their daughter, Ella Clare Changmei Merkel. She became an official part of the family on June 20, 2005.

—Susan Arwood writes, “I have had the most unforgettable experience working at a relief shelter in Greene County. There are 70 people, mostly forced evacuations, quite a few of which are elderly. Most of these victims of the hurricane did not want to leave because they had beloved family pets.”

—Susan continued, “One woman was a most extraordinary 85 year old. She survived 10 days in a flooded home. The last time she talked with her family she was in chest deep water in her attic. I had the privilege of helping her find her family.”

—To read more about this compelling story, point your browser to:

<http://greene.xtn.net/index.php?table=news&template=news.view.subscriber&newsid=124239>

## *Class of 2004*

—Classmate **Linda Biek** is the proud recipient from ETSU this past May of the Award of Honor for recognition of individual accomplishment and representation of her alma mater. She also recently adopted a second retired greyhound to add to her family.

—Also in May, we missed our opportunity to sing at the wedding of **Debra Brown** (now Debra Murray). She and new hubby Stephen went to Hawaii on their honeymoon and are presently remodeling a new home in Columbia. That makes two of our classmates who have taken the plunge since last summer.

—On a rewarding family vacation this summer along Old Orchard Beach in Maine, **Jere Jeter** witness the wonders of childhood as he watched his granddaughter Aubrey play with another girl her age along the water's edge. They played and were seen engaged in lengthy conversation only to learn after the fact that her new playmate only spoke French. The language barrier had not stopped them from communicating and appreciating each other. Jere feels we adults could learn some valuable lessons about relationships from the children around us.

—Two of our classmates **Tracy White** and **Joan Gibran** have been hard at work continuing their education. Tracy is currently participating in the Nashville Chapter of Project Management Institute and working toward a Project Management Professional Certification. We'll all be rooting for Tracy as she sets for the 4.5 hour test to achieve certification. Tracy's son will soon be entering kindergarten and fun days are ahead for her there. Joan recently completed her doctoral comprehensive exam and has begun her dissertation research. Her topic of research is: Representative Democracy and Bureaucratic Discretion. She shared that, "In the context of democratic government that seeks to ensure demographic representativeness through hiring, I am looking at what organizational factors combine to give public administrators the perception that they can assume advocacy roles and make decision which benefit minority groups in the population they serve." Future TGMI and TGEI classmates may get to hear from our own Joan in a classroom somewhere. Congratulations and good luck to Tracy and Joan in these endeavors.

### ***Upcoming Events***

### ***Third Annual TGMI Holiday Breakfast slated for December 9***



It seems that every year as December approaches, I make myself a promise to leave some open places in my planner. If this coming December is anything like the last few, the last month of the year will be wall-to-wall before I know it. One of the most memorable and meaningful events I've enjoyed the past two years has been the Holiday Breakfast. If you haven't attended one, please mark December 9 right now, before some meeting or other event gets booked.

This year's event will be held again at the Ed Jones auditorium, in the Ellington Agricultural Center, between Edmondson Pike and Hogan Road, in South Nashville. The committee does a wonderful job decorating, gathering door prizes and booking entertaining speakers. The meal is always tasty and the fellowship, the best. Plenty of free parking is available just outside the door. For those of you living on the South side of Nashville, it's a very convenient and scenic stop before heading in to the office, if you work downtown.

Bring your camera, your appetite and your holiday spirit. I can't wait to see you.

*Don King*

*(Class Reporter, 2003)*

# *From The Waters Will Rise*

From the waters will rise  
A new and better "Paradise"  
One that springs from God's own flow  
One our forefathers would not know  
It will rise in Godly fear  
Full of grace and good cheer  
Blossoming from waters pure  
Beside the lake where life endures  
The lives lost not lost in vain  
A new beginning from the pain  
No seeming end, but all's not lost  
Renewed grace from bitter cost  
All part of a greater will  
Life and order this world fulfill  
Tammany down but for a while  
Waiting to be reconciled  
Jefferson no more to cry  
St. Bernard and Orleans have not died  
When the winds rose in gale  
And the waters seemed to prevail  
We were still His and He still ours  
Tomorrow renewal, this just a pause  
In the life we've yet to live  
In the deliverance He will give  
Set your face against the wind  
Know His love will never end  
From the hills will come your help  
Cry not His people for yourself  
For Katrina was but a glimpse  
That set our eyes back onto Him  
Brought out good locked in the hearts  
Of those who once stood apart  
But now are brought to Bayou clear  
Holding their brothers and sisters near  
So will rise the coast anew  
In the twinkling of the Master's view  
Making great what once was good  
In ways man has never understood  
For greatness is as greatness does  
Never forgets what is or was  
He to soothe like old friend  
His endless love the victory win  
For God is God who looks from High  
And from His waters we will rise

*Melvin Jones, Jr., © 9/5/05*



*Images of Katrina Coming over land*

